

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

S E C R E T NATO 04137

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PARM, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH PROPOSALS ON ARMS CONTROL

REF: (A) USNATO 285, (B) STATE 15870, (C) USNATO 732,
(C) USNATO 877

1. DANISH PERMREP SVART CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR ON MAY 24 TO DISCUSS DANISH INITIATIVE EARLIER THIS YEAR ON ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS AT NATO (REFTELS). SVART REVIEWED THE BACKGROUND OF THE DANISH INITIATIVE CALLING FOR THE WEST TO ADVANCE REALISTIC ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS OF ITS OWN SO AS NOT TO BE ON THE DEFENSIVE IN THE FACE OF SOVIET INITIATIVES. HE ALSO RECALLED THE DANES HAD ADVOCATED INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITIES IN NATO OF POSSIBLE COMMON WESTERN INITIATIVES IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD.

2. WE POINTED OUT, AND SVART AGREED, THAT SINCE THE DANISH INITIATIVE LAST JANUARY, THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES HAVE GIVEN THE WEST A POSITIVE IMAGE ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. SVART SAID HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT PROFITABLE NOW TO PURSUE THE DANISH INITIATIVE AS SUCH, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF STRONG FRENCH OBJECTIONS. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO ASK THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO COMPILE A
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STATUS REPORT ON PRESENT WESTERN ARMS CONTROL ACTIVITY, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NAC AS THE BASIS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION IN NATO FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC STEPS IN THE ARMS CONTROL FIELD. HE OPPOSED AN EXAMINATION OF EASTERN INITIATIVES ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT COULD BE USED AS A DEVICE BY FRANCE FOR STALLING ON ANY OTHER ASPECT OF NATO CONSIDERATION OF ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS.

3. COMMENT: ORIGINAL DANISH ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVE AROSE IN A PROPOSAL MADE BY DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSON AT DECEMBER 1976 NAC MINISTERIAL. SVART'S CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED DANISH INTEREST IN PURSUING ARMS CONTROL ACTIVITY AT NATO. HOWEVER, SVART ALSO CLEARLY RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS NOT NOW POSSIBLE TO GET NAC ACTION ALONG LINES SOUGHT BY DENMARK, AND HE APPEARED MAINLY INTERESTED IN DETERMINING WHETHER WE WOULD AGREE WITH HIS ASSESSMENT THAT THE TIME WAS NOT RIPE FOR PRESSING THE ORIGINAL INITIATIVE BUT THAT LESSER STEPS MIGHT USEFULLY BE EXPLORED. PURSUANT TO REF B, WE LEFT HIM WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US ENDORSED THE DANISH INITIATIVE, BUT WAS NOT PUSHING FOR ANY PROCEDURAL STEP, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO THE ORIGINAL DANISH PROPOSALS. BENNETT

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